

Section II (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend the claims 1-9 and 11 as set out in the following listing of claims 1-12 of the application:

1. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine (~~10~~) having a base (~~12~~), first mounting means (~~14, 52, 66~~) for mounting at least one tube (~~16~~) upon the base, second mounting means (~~20~~) for mounting a number of fins (~~22~~) upon the base, at least one of the first and second mounting means being movable relative to the base, ~~characterised~~ characterized by tensioning means (~~32, 44~~) for applying a tensile force to at least part of the tube(s) ~~whilst~~ while the fins are being applied thereto.
2. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the first mounting means (~~14, 66~~) is located adjacent one end of the tube(s) (~~16~~), and the tensioning means (~~32, 44~~) is connected to the other end of the tube(s).
3. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the tensioning means includes a connector (~~46~~) secured to the or each tube (~~16~~), the connector being connected to a drive means (~~32~~), tension being applied to the tube by way of the connector.
4. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 3 in which the connector (~~46~~) has a tapered leading end to facilitate passage of the connector, and subsequently the tube (~~16~~), through the fins (~~22~~).
5. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the second mounting means (~~20~~) is substantially fixed relative to the base (~~12~~), so that the fins (~~22~~) are maintained substantially stationary relative to the base during the finning operation, and in which the tube(s) (~~16~~) are driven to move relative to the base and fins.
6. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 5 in which the tube(s) (~~16~~) can be driven to move relative to the base and to the tubes solely by the tensioning means (~~32, 44~~).
7. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the tensioning means (~~32, 44~~) is connected to the tube (~~16~~) by way of a lip (~~60~~) formed at the end (~~24~~) of the tube.
8. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 in which the first mounting means includes a mandrel (~~52~~) which is located within the tube (~~16~~).
9. (Currently amended) A tube finning machine according to Claim 8 in which the mandrel (~~52~~) engages the lip (~~60~~).

10. (Original) A tube finning machine according to Claim 1 having further drive means for imparting a compressive force to the tube.

11. (Currently amended) A method of finning a tube comprising the steps of {i} providing a tube finning machine (10) having a base (12), first mounting means (~~14, 52; 66~~) for mounting at least one tube (16) upon the base, second mounting means (20) for mounting a number of fins (22) upon the base, at least one of the first and second mounting means being movable relative to the base, and tensioning means (~~32, 44, 46~~) for applying a tensile force to at least part of the tube(s) whilst the fins are being applied thereto, {ii} mounting at least one tube upon the base by way of the first mounting means, {iii} mounting a number of fins upon the base by way of the second mounting means, {iv} actuating the tensioning means to move the tubes relative to the fins.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 in which a solid material is introduced into the gaps between the fins so as to support the fins during the finning process.